

# Community Preservation Act

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## Town Manger Brief: Community Preservation Act

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is new legislation that helps towns in Massachusetts to grow in a balanced way. The State is providing matching funds (up to 100 percent) to towns that adopt the CPA.

The CPA establishes a dedicated fund to be spent on projects relating to open space (water protection, wetlands, farms, forests, ponds, wildlife preserve, etc...), historical preservation (buildings and structures), recreation (playing fields, trails, etc...) and affordable housing (for seniors and others who qualify). The CPA requires a five-year minimum commitment. At least 30% of

the funds each year must be allocated to projects within three categories: open space, historical preservation and housing. The remaining 70% can be spent in any of the categories above based on the needs and desires of the town.

A CPA Committee is established to study the needs of the town and develop a plan for implementing the CPA. Duxbury's CPA Committee was recently formed and consists of two citizen representatives (John Whitten and Ed McGlinchey) and a representative from the following town boards: Planning (George Wadsworth), Conservation (Art Vautrain), Open Space & Recreation (Holly Morris), Histori-

cal (Jody Hall) and Housing (Diane Bartlett). The CPA Committee makes recommendations to Town Meeting on suitable projects to be funded by the CPA. All projects must be approved by voters at Town Meeting.

The State has created a Community Preservation Trust Fund, which will be providing matching funds to towns that adopt the CPA. The fund will consist of \$26 million annually and will be generated by surcharges across the State on recording fees by the Registry of Deeds and Land Court. The State estimates that towns that adopt the CPA this year will receive 100 percent matching

funds. In Duxbury's case this will amount to approximately \$800,000 in matching funds.

The 3 percent property tax surcharge will cost the average Duxbury taxpayer \$144 per year. For example, if you pay \$4,000 in taxes currently, the CPA would cost you \$120. The CPA property tax surcharge will go into effect on July 1 and will appear on your next tax bill. The property tax surcharge will be collected quarterly and spread over your four tax bills each year. Questions may be directed through the Town Manager's Office and the School Superintendent's Office or to the following individuals: Joseph Grady, Conservation

Administrator; Thomas Broadrick, Town Planner; Gordon Cushing, Recreation Director; Richard Finnegan, Deputy Assessor; Ann Marie Ellis-Stetson, Acting Treasurer and Nancy Boulanger, Acting Collector.